

Appl. No. 09/963,269
Amdt. dated October 17, 2003
Reply to Office Action of August 28, 2003

REMARKS

This paper is in response to the second Office Action, which was mailed August 28, 2003 with regard to the above-identified application. This response is being filed within two months from the mailing of the Office Action. It is believed that the above amendments put the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-10, 12-20, 22-25, 28-44 and 46-53 are pending in the application. Claims 21 and 26 have been cancelled. The allowance of claims 2-10, 12-20, 29-44 and 46-53 and the indication that claims 22, 23 and 28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form are appreciated.

Claim 22 has been rewritten so as to recite all of the elements of the claim from which it previously depended and is believed to be allowable. The dependency of claim 24 has been changed to claim 22. Being dependent on claim 22, claims 23-25 are also believed to be allowable.

Claim 28 is dependent on claim 49, which has been allowed. (Reasons for the allowance of claim 49 appear on page 4 of the Office Action.) It is believed that the Examiner may have inadvertently overlooked this dependency in forming the objection to claim 28 set forth in the Office Action.

The application now includes 8 independent claims and 47 total claims. The fee for 9 independent claims and 49 total claims has already been paid. Therefore, no fee is believed to be due. However, if any fee is found to be due in connection with this submission, authorization is provided to charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0573.

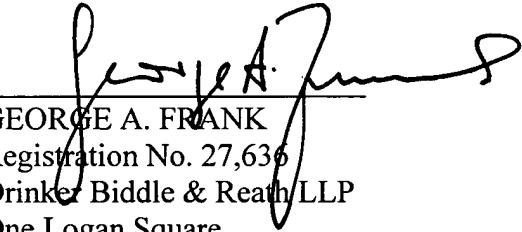
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It is respectfully requested that the present rejections and objections be reconsidered and withdrawn. A Notice of Allowance is solicited. If direct communication will expedite the allowance of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney for applicant.

Respectfully submitted,

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